

FUJY 18.239
09/760,560REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 11/10/2003. The arguments presented below should obviate outstanding issues and make the pending claims allowable. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kinoshita et al. (US Patent No. 5,790,803).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The presently claimed invention provides a communication service information providing method and a communication network that is capable of acquiring or confirming both a communication service (subscribed to by a communication counter party) and identification information (an identifier corresponding to this communication service) with respect to a calling (originating) terminal. The method according to one aspect of the present invention comprises the steps of: (a) receiving a call used to select one of a plurality of communication services, which is transmitted from a calling subscriber to a called subscriber that subscribes to the plurality of communication services; and (b) providing information related to another communication service subscribed to by the called subscriber with respect to the calling subscriber. The communication network, according to one aspect of the present invention, comprises: (a) reception means for receiving a call used to select one of plural communication services from a calling terminal with respect to a subscriber of a communication counter party

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that wants to establish a communication and subscribes the plurality of communication services; and (b) providing means for providing information related to another communication service subscribed to by the subscriber of the communication counter party that wants to establish the communication with respect to the calling terminal.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102(a)

The Examiner contends that claims 1-20 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Kinoshita et al. (US 5,790,803). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, the cited reference must provide each and every claim element of a system/apparatus claim, or each and every step of a method claim. Applicants contend that Kinoshita et al. (hereon Kinoshita) neither explicitly nor implicitly provides for many of the claim limitations as required by claims 1-20.

With respect to the "receiving" step of claims 1 and 2 (wherein a call is received to select one of a plurality of communication services), the Examiner cites column 5, lines 58-65 in the Kinoshita reference as support for his argument. However, a close reading of the cited paragraphs and the Kinoshita reference in its entirety discloses that the user at the terminal equipment 102 (as the caller) "issues the request for the subscriber name list to the information server 100 (Step 230)." It further states that the request may be accompanied with the retrieval conditions such as "the name or the post of the subscriber in order to limit the number of subscribers' names in the list to be answered from the information server."

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However, Kinoshita et al. fail to disclose a step of "receiving a call" which is used to select one or a plurality of communication services which is transmitted from a calling subscriber to a called subscriber (that subscribes to the plurality of communication services).

With respect to the "providing" step, wherein the provided information relates to another communication service subscribed to by the called subscriber, as defined in claims 1 and 3, the examiner cites column 6, lines 4-11 of the Kinoshita reference for support. However, a close reading of the cited paragraphs and the Kinoshita reference discloses an information server 100 which receives a request 230 for the subscriber name list and extracts the personal identifiers 201, the names 202 of the subscribers, and the posts 203 with respect to a plurality of subscribers which have been retrieved from the personal information table 200 (Step 231). The extracted information is then transmitted (as the subscriber name list data) to the terminal equipment 102 of the caller (step 232). Therefore, Kinoshita et al. fail to disclose the step of providing information related to a communication service subscribed to by the called subscriber with respect to the calling subscriber, as required by claims 1 and 2. It should be emphasized that the subscriber name list data shown in Figure 3A does not correspond to information related to another communication service.

With respect to the "acquiring" step, wherein communication identification information is acquired from a database related to a called subscriber in a switching apparatus which accepts the incoming call, as defined in claim 3, the examiner cites column 10, lines 25-30 of the Kinoshita reference for support. However, a closer reading of the cited paragraphs and the Kinoshita reference discloses a communication network 101 that is connected an information server 120 (offering subscriber personal information), a mail server 130, facsimiles 131 (131A to

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131N), terminal equipment 102 (102A-102N), and telephones 501 (501A to 501N) each having an automatic dialing facility. Therefore, Kinoshita et al. fail to disclose a database in a switching apparatus (which accepts the call) that is used in acquiring communication identification information related to the called subscriber. Additionally, Kinoshita fails to explicitly or implicitly teach that the communication identification information can be any of the following: a telephone number, an electronic mail address, a facsimile number, or communication services which are subscribed by the called subscriber, as required by claim 3.

With respect to the "storing" step of claims 4, 5, and 12, wherein a plurality of communication services associated with a subscriber are stored, the examiner cites figures 8-11 of the Kinoshita reference for support of his rejection. However, Figure 9 of the Kinoshita reference merely shows kinds of communication services and its addresses. Also disclosed in the abstract is the determination of communication equipment by referring to the contents of the personal record received from the information server. Therefore, Kinoshita et al. fails to disclose the limitation (of claim 5) of notifying identification information when the calling terminal encounters a communication non-connectable state.

Kinoshita et al. provide for a method used to obtain personal information from personal identifiers (wherein such information is then displayed to a user). For example, Kinoshita et al. disclose in column 6, lines 12-28, that the terminal equipment 102 which receives the subscriber name list outputs the subscriber name list 24 representing both the personal names and the posts to the display screen as shown in Figure 6. When the number of subscribers in the subscriber name list is large, the program is arranged in such a way that the contents of the list will be able to be scrolled in the display screen later. The user at the terminal equipment 102 learns of the

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called subscriber from the subscriber name list on the display screen and then inputs the personal identifier thereof (step 234). The input of the personal identifier has to only specify the subscriber by positioning the cursor with respect to the name of the subscriber of interest. Then, the terminal equipment 102 transmits the personal identifier corresponding to the subscriber. Accordingly, when the personal identifier is unknown or when the calling terminal encounters a communication non-connectable state, the personal information cannot be obtained by Kinoshita et al.

The above-mentioned arguments for independent claims 1-5 substantially apply to independent claims 12 and 15-20 and dependent claims 6-9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 as they inherit many of the limitations from the claim they depend from. Hence, in view of the above-mentioned arguments, applicants respectfully request the examiner to withdraw the rejections to claim 1-20.

SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed with an extension of time for two months. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the extension fee and any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

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If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not
hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

Harris A. Wolin
Registration No. 39,432

Kamen Muchin Zavis Rosanman
575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022-2585
(212) 940-8800
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